Steps for Social Equity Criteria Lottery

1. Group Formation

Individual principal officers ("PO") form an applicant entity following the Social Equity Criteria found here. Applications are limited to one BLS Region; no PO can be on more than one application.

2. Application Submission

Applications are online only and consist of limited information and a $250 fee. Applicants who submit a completed application and fee will receive a unique number and receipt to keep for the lottery.

3. Lottery Participant List

After the application window closes, IDFPR will publicly post the list of eligible lottery participants with their unique identifiers.

6. 45-Day "Prove Up" Period

Top participants begin their 45 days to submit proof of their social equity status and operational requirements. A helpful guide may be found here.

5. Lottery: 55 Top Participants

IDFPR, with the Illinois Lottery, will conduct a lottery for each of the 17 BLS Regions. The 55 top participants across those regions will proceed.

4. Five (5) Days to Contest

If an applicant believes it is not included on the lottery participant list, it has five days to contest. IDFPR may adjust the list to reflect any corrections.

7. Department Review

DFPR will review the 55 top participants' documents in order to determine eligibility.

8. Deficiency Periods

If DFPR is unable to determine eligibility, top participants will receive deficiency notices and have ten (10) days to correct.

9. Next Top Participant

If a top participant is unable to correct its deficiencies, the Department will deny licensure and proceed to the next eligible top participant from the lottery results.

10. Conditional License Issuance

If IDFPR reviews and approves a top participant who has successfully completed the prove-up period, the Department will issue it a conditional license. Remember, a conditional license does not authorize a holder to sell cannabis, but to begin its zoning, operational, and build-out process. More information on that process can be found here.

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Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation